

Battle on the Hardenbergerheide

(17-jun-1580)

The battle on the Hardenbergerheide determined the fate of the northern parts of the Netherlands for 14 years. Only when Prince Maurits took the city of Groningen in 1594 was the north finally secured for the Dutch.

Prelude

On 3 March 1580 George van Lalaing (Earl of Rennenberg) stadholder of Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe and Overijssel changed sides to the Spanish. Known as the treason of Rennenberg. The Dutch feared that as a result the northern parts of the Netherlands would be lost for the rebellion. To prevent this they laid siege to the city of Groningen and aimed to get all the support they could muster. Filips von Hohenlohe, located at Oldenzaal, was ordered to join the Union troops. He set out for Groningen but when he was passing Coevorden he got word that a Spanish force under Maarten Schenk was on its way from Lingen to Zwolle, where only two days ago an uprising against the Spanish had started. Hohenlohe decided to turn back and confront Maarten Schenk. They met just east of Hardenberg near the hamlet of Venebrugge.

Situation report

It is the afternoon of 17 June 1580. The Spanish army has had sufficient time to prepare. Even allowing the troops to refresh themselves with 14 barrels of beer. The army is deployed facing northwest. The avant grade is in front of a few gentle hills. The bataille in reserve behind and out of view for the Dutch. The battlefield is open relatively flat with a few scattered lonely trees and the various settlements of the hamlet of Venebrugge.

The Dutch avant-garde is seen deployed and their guns have just fired their first shot, marking an ongoing event.

Victory conditions

Force the Dutch army into retreat and free up the road to Zwolle as well as Groningen.

Commander in Chief: Maarten Schenk

A Dutch commander in Spanish service. Initially Maarten Schenk served the Dutch. However, in 1576 he took the castle of Bleijenbeek as part of an inheritance conflict and this put pressure on his relation with the Union. After defeat in the battle of Gembloux in 1578 he changed sides.

Player control dice

Player with C-in-C: 9D6. Player with avant-garde commander: 7D6

Avant-garde

Commander: Pedro Avanti

Coup d'ceil: Capable

Charisma: Trusted

Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	KEYWORDS
Mercenary Pikemen	1000 In 31 ranks	Pike Halve armored Halve unarmored	CUADRO DE GENTE
Arquebusiers	250 In 8 to 10 ranks	Arquebus	ARQUEBUSIERS SKIRMISHING
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Cabalos Ligeros	75 In 1 to 3 ranks	Lance 3/4 plate armour	CABALOS LIGEROS
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Hergulitiers	100 In 5 ranks	Arquebus, side arm lightly armored	MTD ARQUEBUSIERS CARACOLE SKIRMISHING

Bataille

Commander: Maarten Schenk (C-in-C)

Coup d'ceil: Capable

Charisma: Trusted

Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	KEYWORDS
Mercenary Pikemen	1000 In 31 ranks	Pike Halve armored Halve unarmored	CUADRO DE GENTE
Arquebusiers	250 In 8 to 10 ranks	Arquebus	ARQUEBUSIERS SKIRMISHING
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Cabalos Ligeros	75 In 1 to 3 ranks	Lance 3/4 plate armour	CABALOS LIGEROS
Reiters	300 In 17 ranks	Pistols, sword 3/4 plate armour	REITER CARACOLE